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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/647,748 | 10/04/2000 | Makoto Sakakibara | 54030USA7A.0 | 3966 |

7590 02/04/2002

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| EXAMINER |
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CHANG, VICTOR S

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1771

DATE MAILED: 02/04/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/647,748

Applicant(s)

SAKAKIBARA, MAKOTO

Examiner

Victor S Chang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2. 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 1 and 2, the term 'different' is vague and indefinite. Particularly if one considers the microscopic level, virtually every ratio would be "different".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Canary (EP 0 488 727 A).

Canary's invention relates to paperboard products in the form of sheet materials formed of polyolefins and wood fiber (page 2, column 1, lines 1-3). Canary discloses a paperboard comprising a ply having two layers, the first layer is formed of a mixture of polyolefin fibers and long fiber softwood pulp, the quantity of polyolefin fiber being less

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than the quantity of wood pulp fiber in the mixture (the 'low polyolefin' layer), and the second layer formed of a mixture of polyolefin fibers and long fiber softwood pulp, the quantity of polyolefin fiber being greater than the quantity of wood pulp fiber (the 'high polyolefin' layer), wherein said layers are superimposed on one another and bonded together to form a single ply (page 2, column 1, lines 6-16).

Claim 1 lacks novelty.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over NITTO DENKO CORP (XP002112333 & JP 02 151427) in view of Canary (EP 0 488 727 A).

NITTO DENKO's invention relates to a masking tape. The reference discloses that a thin porous sheet paper made of beaten wood pulp and short synthetic fiber is impregnated with rubber and/or synthetic resin (Abstract, page 1, lines 1-6). The reference also discloses the advantage of having different amount^s of impregnated rubber and/or resin at the front and rear surfaces ~~to~~ to yield different densities to provide mechanical strength on one side and better compatibility for coating on the other side

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(Abstract, page 1, lines 17-21). The thin porous sheet is used as a base film for masking, and the adhesive tape is capable of being released from the surface without tearing and breaking (Abstract, page 1, lines 23-24 and page 2, line 1).

NITTO DENKO shows all the features of the instant claimed invention except the use of a two-layer paper backing with different layer mechanical strength such as the one taught by Canary's patent. As such, in the absence of unexpected results, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the backing of DITTO DENKO's adhesive sheet with Canary's two-layer paper, motivated by the different mechanical strengths in the two layers for improved release property without tearing and breaking, and by the expectation of success imparted by the teachings of the prior art.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In addition, the following references are cited of interested for making masking adhesive tape:

US 5204173 to Canary

US 4212703 to D'Amico et al.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor S Chang whose telephone number is 703-605-4296. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel H Morris can be reached on 703-308-2414. The fax phone numbers

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for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-0771 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.

VSC

VSC
January 29, 2002

DANIEL ZIRKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ~~1300~~
1700

Daniel Zinker